

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 12, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write regarding the re-enrichment of depleted uranium "tails" located in Paducah, Kentucky and Piketon, Ohio, and the American Centrifuge Project for which your Agency requested budget authority for research, development, and demonstration at the end of last year.

The Department of Energy (DOE) possesses the authority to re-enrich the depleted uranium and do the research, development, and demonstration of American Centrifuge through various funding mechanisms, including, but not limited to, conducting a title transfer of tails with the loan guarantee applicant.

According to the Government Accountability Office, a tails enrichment program would provide over \$4 billion in federal revenue. Moreover, re-enriching the tails would immediately save nearly 1,200 jobs located in Paducah, Kentucky and solve several problems that DOE currently faces should the Paducah plant close; namely, how to pay for maintaining the plant in cold storage. Thousands more jobs would be supported by American Centrifuge projects. Instead of losing thousands of jobs in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and other parts of our nation, we can create thousands more through re-enrichment and commercialization of American Centrifuge.

To be successful, we need you to use your existing authority to take action now. The title transfer would provide the necessary time and resources to ensure American Centrifuge moves forward. In the meantime, we trust that you will include American Centrifuge in the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request, enabling Congress to consider it through regular order during the appropriations process.

In addition to government revenue and saving and creating jobs, there are major national security requirements at stake in both of these projects. Every other enrichment operation in the world produces enriched uranium that has a "foreign obligation" so it cannot be used for our national security purposes. For example, should the Paducah plant close and American Centrifuge not be completed, the United States will not be able to generate uranium to fuel the TVA Watts Bar facility or generate uranium for other national security purposes. It also is vital to nonproliferation efforts, which is a top priority for the President and Congress. It is imperative that we move forward with American Centrifuge, and that the Paducah plant continues to operate so we have the ability to provide uranium from a reliable and secure source for our national security and domestic needs.


The Honorable Steven Chu

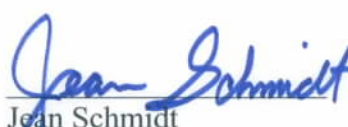
January 12, 2012

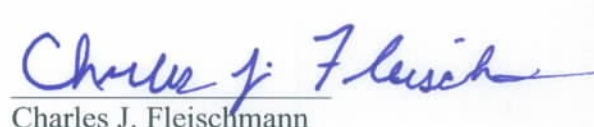
Page 2


The expedient resolution of these matters is within your authority, and prompt action by the DOE is the only way to protect thousands of jobs and strengthen America's energy and national security. We do not understand why the Department refuses to save jobs, provide additional revenue to the federal government, reduce the maintenance cost, and accelerate cleanup at federal sites. The Obama Administration has said repeatedly that one of their top objectives is to create jobs. You have the opportunity to save 1,200 jobs and create thousands of other jobs with the existing authority you have. Please respond as soon as possible because time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

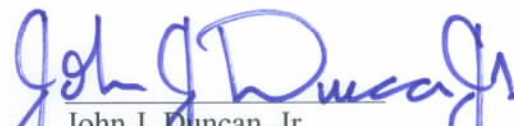
  
Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

  
Jean Schmidt  
Member of Congress

  
Charles J. Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

  
John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House


  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Steven C. LaTourette  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress

  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

  
Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Austria  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



James B. Renacci  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Jacob Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Cc: The Honorable Daniel Poneman, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy